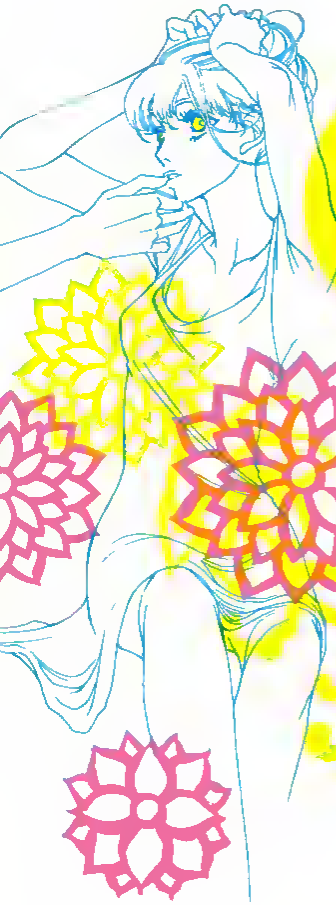

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おかざき真里

Mari Okazaki

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おかざき真里

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CONTENTS 1

Number 1 ——— 5

Number 2 ——— 49

Number 3 ——— 83

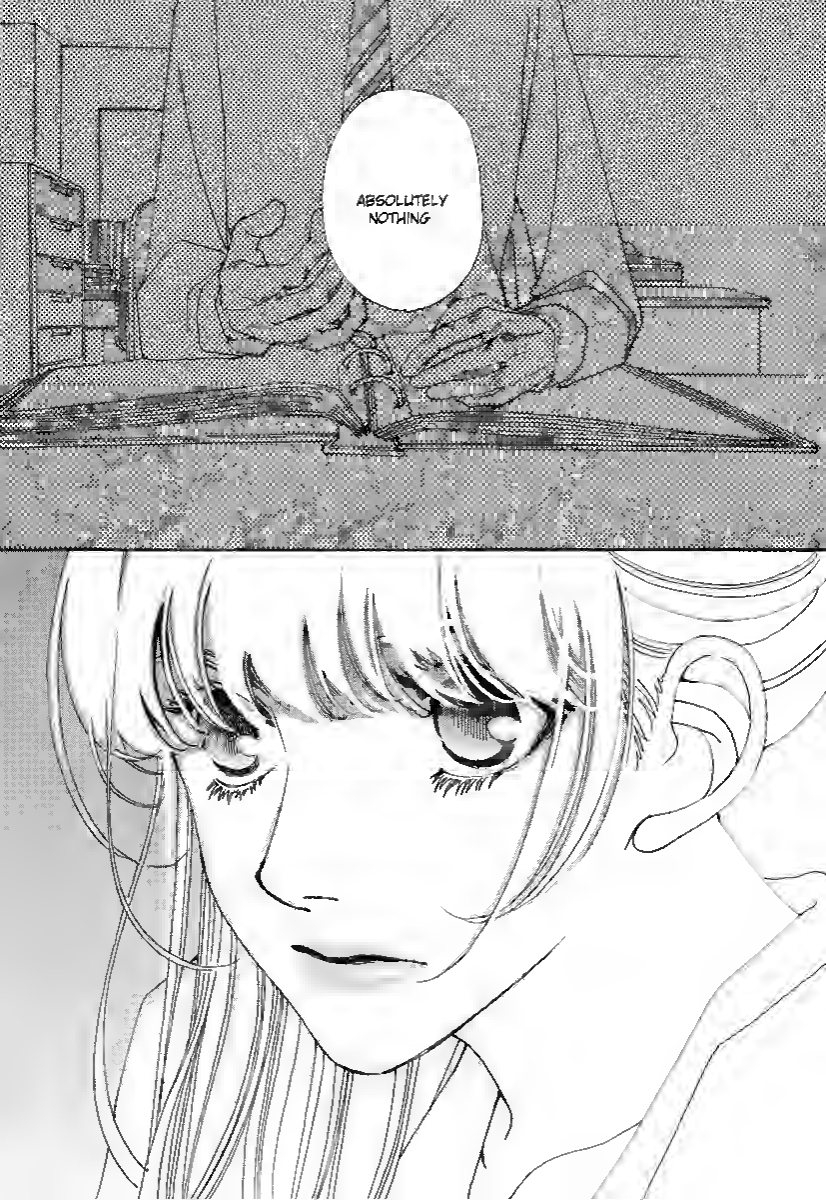
Number 4 ——— 101

Number 5 ——— 137

Number 5.5 (side-shiro) ——— 171

To my father in heaven,
Live Well
Grade 4/Class 2
Aoki Kaoru
Even now, when I'm 26 years old, I still don't understand
the meaning of those words I wrote in elementary school

Number
1


ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING

OH, THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION
OUR PLACE IS A BIT...
NO.
UH-UH, NO WAY
THERE ARE THESE REGULATIONS ON RENTED HOMES
YOU WON'T FIND ANYTHING, EVEN IF YOU SEARCH ONLINE
NOTHING
THE MANAGER WOULD BE AGAINST THAT IDEA
不動産
NONE, NONE
IF YOU HAVE TO GO THAT ROUTE, YOU'RE BETTER OFF NEGOTIATING DIRECTLY WITH A FRIEND RATHER THAN A REAL ESTATE AGENT.
THAT IS, ABOUT OWNER-SHIP RATHER THAN THE RIGHT TO LEASE...
SIGH

THIS IS TOUGH!
Even though there are this many
vacancies on earth
Maybe I won't find one

doesn't exist in this world
Maybe what I'm looking for right now
Everytime I really want something,
I finally make a move, and this is what happens
It never exists in the shape that I want it to be
Aww, geez.
Maybe I should quit
It's all because I'm wearing a suit that my heels are
Ow, ow, ow, ow

IT'S OKAY
SORRY ABOUT THAT
OH!
BOING
I didn't notice there was someone standing next to me
...CHAN?
SHIRO-

YOU FINALLY NOTICED
mumble
WOW. WHAT A SURPRISE! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED!
#1 HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
#2 DID YOU GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE?
#3 WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
#4 WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
NEITHER HAVE YOU
mumble
UH
UH

IN REPLY
#1
SINCE YOUR GRADUATION, THE LAST TIME WE MET WAS AT A DRINKING PARTY WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
SO IT'S BEEN THREE? FOUR? MAYBE TWO YEARS?
YOU LIKE TO DEVIATE AS USUAL...
#2
I LEFT COLLEGE.
#3
I HAVE A COMPANY.
?
HAVE A COMPANY? WHAT?
UH... LIKE I SAID, I HAVE MY OWN COMPANY.
YOUR OWN?! SO YOU'RE THE BOSS?!
mumble
WELL, UM... YEAH.
BOSS!
WOW! I'M IMPRESSED.
I WORK NEARBY.
AWW, BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, SHIRO-CHAN.

KAORU-SEMPAI
YES, LONG TIME NO SEE.
DO YOU LIVE AROUND HERE?
MY OFFICE IS CLOSE BY
TODAY'S SUNDAY
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M LOOKING FOR SOME-THING.

ARE YOU LIVING ALONE?
NO, NOT WITH EVERY-THING SO EXPENSIVE AROUND HERE
...I'M LOOKING FOR AN OFFICE OR A STORE FOR RENT.
ARE YOU STARTING A BUSINESS?
I DON'T PLAN ON QUITTING MY JOB.
MEDICAL CLERK... WHICH IS THE SAME AS MEDICAL CODING...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
NO.
BUT MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CALL IT QUITS.

I NEVER MAKE ANY SENSE!
OH! UM, I'M SORRY
ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT OR NOT? WHICH ONE?
?
QUITTING OR NOT QUITTING?
ABOUT MY SEARCHING FOR SOME-THING...
I'm always slacking off like this
WHEN I FINALLY TRY TO TAKE ACTION,
I'M MET WITH A DEAD END
THIS PLACE WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE...
THE MAIN STREET LEADS UP TO THE TRAIN,
AND THE OFFICES ARE BIG.
I start giving up little by little.
OH, THIS IS MY COMPANY...

Keep your shoes on
YES.
YOU RENT THE WHOLE PLACE?
YES.
THE COMPANY NAME?
TEAM GORILLA
IT'S JAPANESE STYLE...
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A COMPANY
creak
IT WAS USED AS A BAR BEFORE.
creak
NO ONE'S HERE?
creak
THERE ARE FOUR PEOPLE WORKING ON THE SECOND FLOOR
creak
WHAT DO THEY DO?

PROGRAM-
MING
SHIRO-SAN,
WE'VE BEEN
WAIT
YOU'RE
FINALLY
HERE!

IT'S A WOMAN!
...ING.
HEY!
WOMAN?!
SWOOP
SWOOP
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
?
?
A WOMAN, A WOMAN.
A WOMAN, A WOMAN.
NESTING HOLE

I THOUGHT THERE WERE NO TRESPASSERS ALLOWED?
SHE'LL SCARE OFF THESE GUYS.
HEY, SHIRO-SAN!
OH! I'M SORRY
GASP
KYAHHHHH SCREEEECH
EEK!
MY APOLOGIES.
.....
MUMBLE

ANYWAY, HURRY UP WITH THE RECOVERY OPERATIONS
HUH?!
I JUST FOUND A BUG IN REMOTE
OH YEAH, WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE SOURCE
SHIRO-SAN APOLOGIZED
HE APOLO-GIZED, HE APOLOGIZED
whisper
whisper
HUH?! ALREADY?!
KTAC
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO KILL IT
BUSY

SURE
LET'S WAGER.
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
SINCE HE FOUND THE BUG, THAT MEANS HE'LL GET IT DONE FAST.
...TWO HOURS.
HM, WELL, I THINK IT'LL BE A DAY'S WORK.
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
EXCUSE ME...
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
WHAT IS SHIRO-SAN DOING?
and in a really bad posture too...

?
H- HE'S TIED UP WITH TROUBLE-SHOOTING
TROUBLE-SHOOTING?
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
A B- BUG SHOWED UP IN A PROGRAM THAT WE DIDN'T CREATE
NOBODY WAS ABLE TO FIX IT FOR SEVERAL DAYS
SO THAT'S WHEN THEY CALLED SHIRO-SAN

KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
IF HE CAN'T DO IT, NO ONE CAN
IF SHIRO-SAN'S THE ONE DOING IT
CAN IT BE FIXED?
15 MINUTES!

KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
HE CAN'T DO IT THAT QUICKLY...
YES, HE CAN! ♡
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
THEY CALL HIM THE CHARISMATIC PROGRAMMER

FIXED
KTAC
mumble
TERMI-
NATED
IN 15
MINUTES!
WOW!
Nooooooah
CLAP
CLAP
I'VE
RESTORED
IT FOR THE
TIME BEING.
Doesn't really
understand
YOU DO
THE REST
IF IT TOOK YOU
FROM LAST NIGHT
UNTIL NOW, MAYBE
YOU'RE NOT UP TO
THE TASK?
mumble
THANK...
Roger!
ROGER!

.....
fearful
fearful
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT WENT ON, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE WORKING HARD.
YOU WERE ALWAYS SO QUIET AT OUR CLUB
um
Um. How does this work?
.....
LET'S DO THAT INFRARED THING
WE CAN GO OUT FOR DRINKS
DRINKS ?!
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
Infrared.
YEAH, BUT I CAN'T REALLY HOLD MY LIQUOR

ANYWAY, THIS VACANCY IS INCREDIBLE THE JAPANESE STYLE IS UN-OBTRUSIVE
WE DON'T REALLY USE THE FIRST FLOOR THOUGH
mumble
WHAT?
OH, ABOUT THE FIRST FLOOR HARDLY BEING USED?
NO, AFTER THAT...
ABOUT DRINKS?
WHAT. DID YOU SAY?

"YOU'RE BETTER OFF NEGOTIATING DIRECTLY WITH A FRIEND."
不動産
CLUTCH

LET ME RENT THIS PLACE, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY IN THE EVENINGS!
SO IT'S DECIDED JUST LIKE THAT?

NO.1 SURGICAL DEPT.
YEAH, THE MANAGER'S A FRIEND OF HIS, SO HE SAID HE'D TALK TO HIM.
WE'LL GO FROM THERE
UH-HUH, SO YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO DO IT
YEAH, BUT
AHH!
whack

QUIT WASTING YOUR BREATH
YOU'LL GET DOWNSIZED FOR THAT, DISPOSABLES.
GOOD MORNING
WAIT RIGHT THERE, YAGAI-SAN!
YOU USED THE BIKE IN THE REHABILITATION ROOM DURING YOUR SHIFT AND BROKE IT, DIDN'T YOU?
AWW, BUT IT WAS *ALREADY* BROKEN BEFORE.
Pow!
ANYWAY. DON'T RIDE ON IT ANYMORE! WE'VE HAD COMPLAINTS.

AND ALSO HEY, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
Wobble Wobble
Steady
BREAKFAST While on duty
WE'LL BE TAKING IN OUTPATIENTS SOON!
HE MUST HAVE CONNED US INTO THINKING HE'S AN EXPERT
HE'S FAMOUS FOR HIS WICKED TONGUE INSIDE THE HOSPITAL MAYBE HE DISLIKES PEOPLE?
We've had a lot of complaints from patients
AND HE'S DEFINITELY A PERVERT!
BUT YOU GET ALONG WITH HIM KAORU
NO, I DON'T!
HE'S ALWAYS TEASING ME.
Even when we first spoke to each other
_SENSEI?* WHAT ARE DOING HERE?
Taking a nap
OH, YOU RE OUR DEPARTMENT S CLERK RIGHT?

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: AN HONOROFIC THAT CAN BE USED FOR ANYONE IN A PROFESSION LIKE TEACHERS, WRITERS, DOCTORS, ETC.

This kind of thing happens often too.
LOOK, I NEED YOU TO REWRITE THE TIME OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR THAT DISEASED PATIENT THAT WAS HOSPITALIZED HERE THIS MORNING
The electronic clinical records
He was really asleep
WE CHECKED HIM IN BEFORE DIAGNOSIS, SO NOW THE HOSPITAL WARD SAYS THEY WON'T TAKE THE PATIENT.
MAYBE... THE PEOPLE IN THAT WARD JUST HAVE SOMETHING AGAINST YOU?
We're prohibited from taking liberties with clinical records
That's because
WHAT? BUT I'M SUCH A HANDSOME GUY
when anticipated trouble or lawsuits arise,
they'll be able to avoid getting themselves involved.
THEN, SENSEI?
PLEASE DO YOUR UTMOST TO THREATEN ME.

HUH?
YOUR PATIENTS WOULD BE THE ONES TO SUFFER.
WHEN SOME PROBLEM OR LAWSUIT COMES UP,
I'LL BE ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH IT BY SAYING, "SENSEI THREATENED ME."
I SEE...
SHOVE
Thump
Thump
Thump

I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU, BITCH!
flick

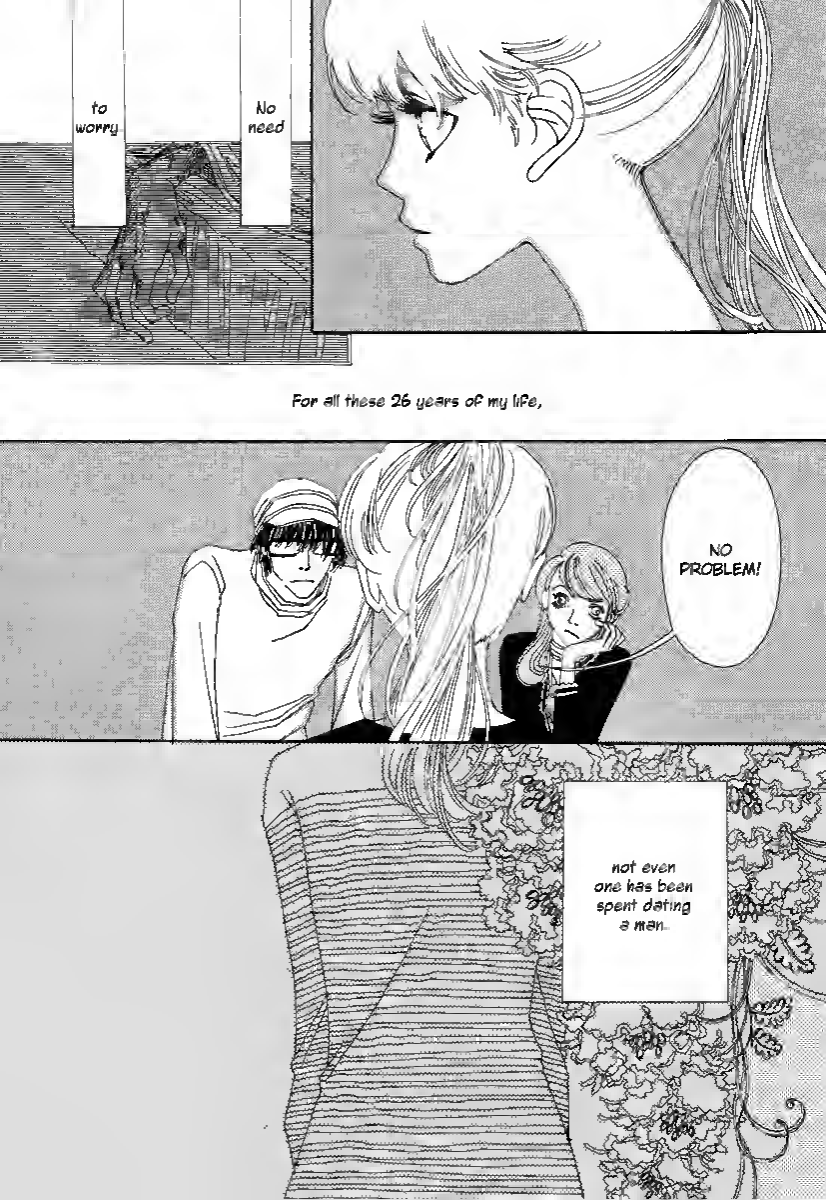
I'M COUNTING ON YOU
OKAY
Ever since then,
Yagai Kouga, specializes in lung surgery, 45 years old.
He always walks with his left hand
he keeps on meddling in my affairs
No
shoved into his pocket.
only feature the doctors, nurses and patients.
It's not that he cares about me
The hospitals shown on tv or in dramas,

Maybe he's just teasing me...
What often happens is that the other staff (doctors and nurses) can't even remember the clerk's name
AHH!
THE MORNING SHIFT'S FINALLY OVER!
IT'S ALWAYS BUSY ON MONDAYS, HUH?
Miyuki, who's a nurse here, went to the same junior high school as me.
BY THE WAY, WHEN ARE YOU STARTING YOUR OTHER JOB ..?
I HAVE TO START RIGHT AFTER PREPARATIONS, AND THEN WORK
EVERYDAY

I DON'T HAVE ANYONE
FIND SOMEONE!
YOU WON'T HAVE TIME FOR DATES
EVERY DAY?
I WONDER WHICH WILL COME FIRST YOUR GETTING A BOYFRIEND OR MY REMARRIAGE
I'M GOING OVER TO A GUY'S HOUSE TODAY ♡
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO...
ISN'T HAVING A GUY MORE IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN
THAN GETTING MORE WORK?

WHY?!
WHY'D YOU MAKE THAT PROMISE?!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE USING THE FIRST FLOOR.
STILL, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE TO LEASE THE SPACE FOR HER.
GLARE
eek
EXCUSE ME.
I'M AOKI KAORU! I'LL BE WORKING HERE STARTING TODAY!

A WOMAN. A WOMAN.
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO DO BUSINESS FROM 6 ON THE WEEKDAYS UNTIL THE LAST TRAIN COMES.
I'LL CLEAN UP BEFORE LEAVING EVERY DAY.
I WON'T PUT ON MUSIC OR MAKE ANY LOUD NOISE.
AS FOR THE RENT... I'LL MAKE THE PAYMENTS.
EXCUSE ME.
AS WORKERS, I THINK WE SHOULD GO OVER WHAT'S PROHIBITED *BEFORE* ANYTHING ELSE.
FOR INSTANCE, BRINGING A MAN OVER.
YOU'D BETTER NOT!


to worry
No need
For all these 26 years of my life,
NO PROBLEM!
not even one has been spent dating a man.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN ASK HER?
OH, YEAH, WHAT KIND IS IT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "IN EXCHANGE"?
FIRST OF ALL, WHAT KIND OF SHOP IS IT?
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE
BUT IN EXCHANGE, YOU'LL HAVE TO LET ME REMODEL AND USE THE SHELVES
I know...
"ISN'T HAVING A GUY MORE IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN THAN GETTING MORE WORK?"
I know...
I'M SORRY
I SHOULD HAVE EXPLAINED FROM THE BEGINNING
In the corner of my mind, I already knew it,
click
If I'm going to start something, it's either now or never

I know that as a woman this might seem
like I don't have my priorities straight but for now...
Aoki Kaoru, 26 years old
IT'S GOING TO BE A NAIL SALON
I am now working two jobs
LOOKING FORWARD TO BUSINESS

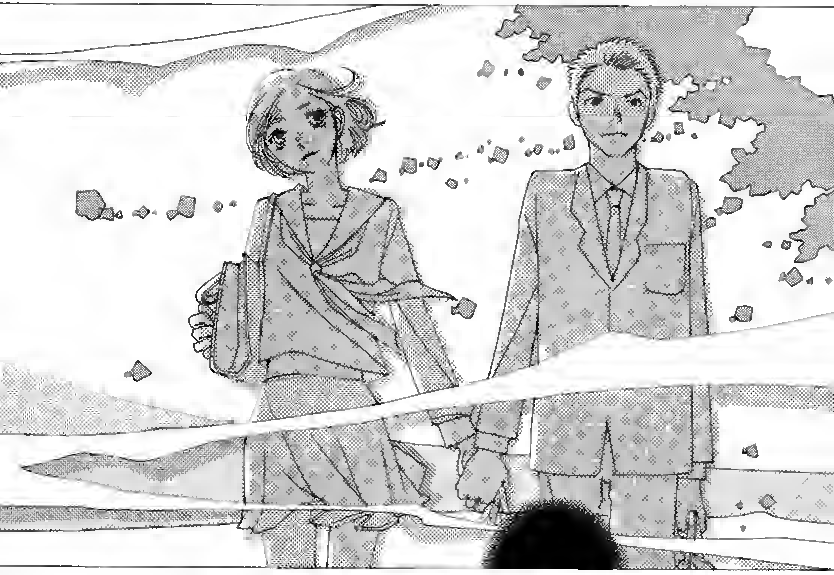
Number
2

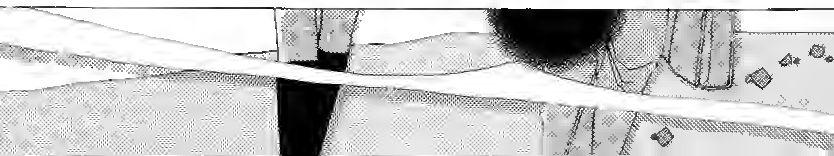
*T/N: PUCHI-PURI/PETIT FREEZE IS A PHENOMENON WHERE RESPONSE FROM THE OS IS LOST TEMPORARILY.

That's what they call a "puchi-puri".*

PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME

It happened in middle school


I could tell the moment we held hands for the first time



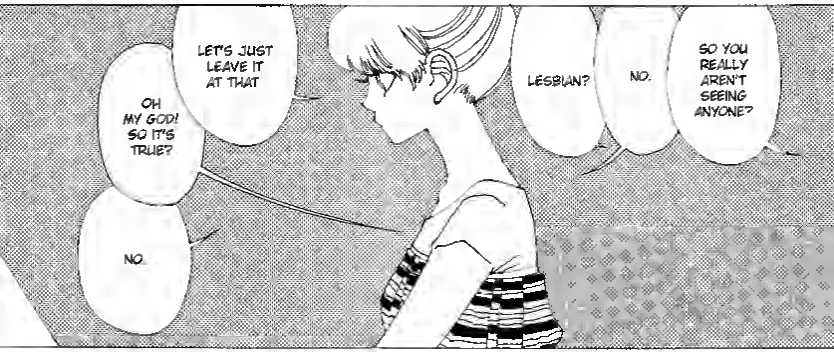
I thought to myself, "Aww, I'm really sorry, but I don't have feelings for you."
Hey.

*T/N: "TETSUKO'S ROOM" (TETSUKO NO HEYA) WAS THE FIRST TALK SHOW ON JAPANESE TELEVISION AND FEATURED ACTRESS TETSUKO KUROYANAGI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH CELEBRITIES FROM VARIOUS FIELDS, INCLUDING TELEVISION, SPORTS AND POLITICS.

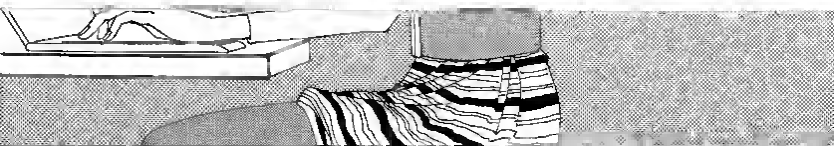
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
KTAC
WELL, THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY SPECIAL REASON AS TO WHY I'M SINGLE,
SO I THOUGHT I'D TELL YOU MY HISTORY
WHO ASKED YOU ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL (JUNIOR HIGH) EXPERIENCE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS, TETSUKO'S ROOM?!*

This question keeps getting repeatedly asked of me "Why are you single?"

My singleness is a crime at times like these

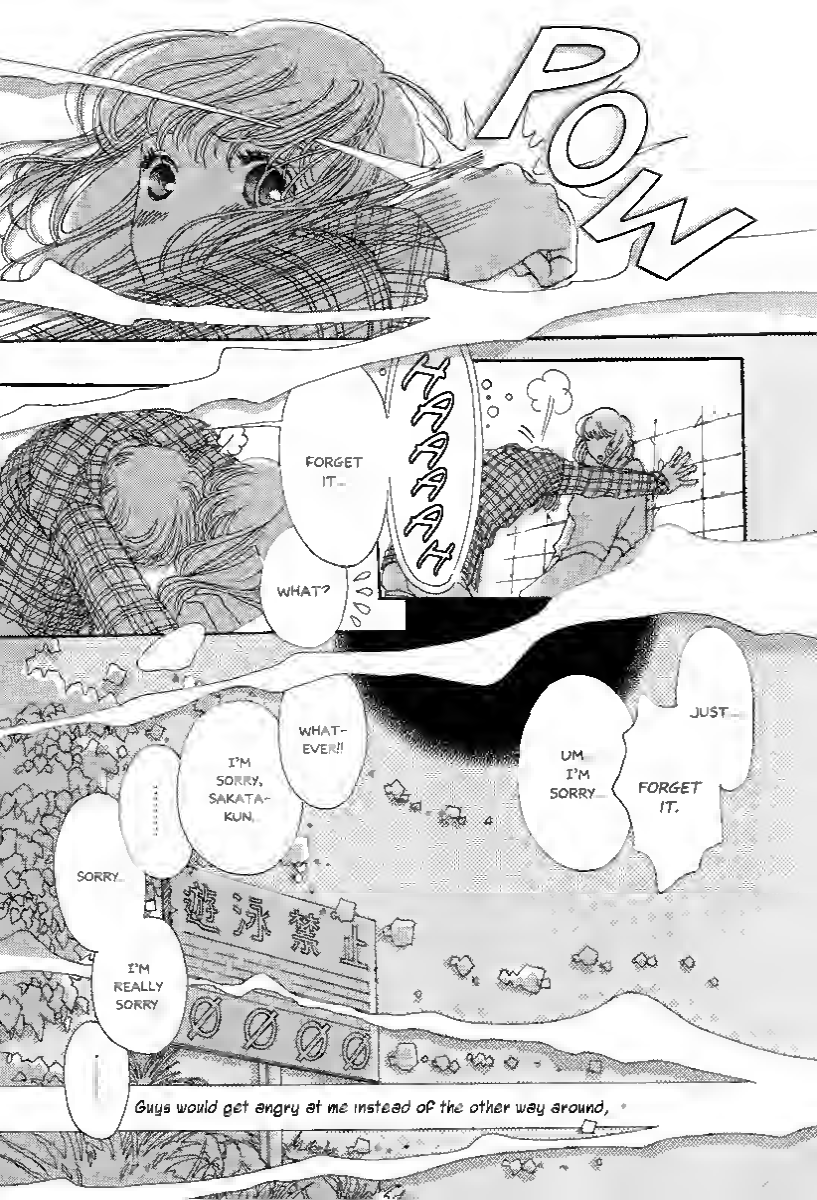


I don't even have a definite reply for myself.



All I have are repugnant memories.
AOKI-CHAN.
ガチャ
IT FITS WITH THE MOOD
MOOD?!
HEY.. WAIT! WASN'T I "AOKI-SAN" TO YOU EARLIER?!
DID YOU SAY, "AOKI-CHAN"?!

HAHA
HAHA
LOOK, I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS!
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID JUST NOW
UH... I DIDN'T SAY...
DIDN'T YOU?! YOU SAID, "WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT,"
AND I SAID, "I AGREE."
TH..THEN TELL ME,
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME HERE?!
I TREATED YOU TO ICECREAM JUST NOW!
AND I PAID FOR THE TRAIN FARE TOO!
HUH?!
HUH?!
WHAAA-AAAT?!


POW
HAAAA
FORGET IT...
WHAT?
WHAT-EVER!!
I'M SORRY, SAKATA-KUN.
.....
SORRY...
I'M REALLY SORRY
.....
UM... I'M SORRY...
JUST... FORGET IT.
遊泳禁止
Guys would get angry at me instead of the other way around,

KYA-HAHAHA.
WOW, YOU'D GO THAT FAR TO MAKE A RIGHT GUESS AT A GOU-KON?
WOOOOW!
YOU'RE SO FUNNY, KUBO-KUN!
nudge
DID YOU SAY BLOOD TYPE?
I'M TYPE B
Scoot Scoot Scoot
Scoot Scoot Scoot
nudge...

AHA-HAHA
AND THEN ..
I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM
OH, YOU MEAN THE GIRL WITH THE BANGS?
NO WAY, NO WAY, NO WAY
SHE'S A PRUDE
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR.
SHE'S MORE TROUBLE THAN SHE'S WORTH
THANKS FOR WAITING
HAD THE RUNS?
I WAS SMOKING!
or would talk trash about me,

♪ Kept making mistake after mistake
♪ Couldn't get nowhere
WHAAAT?
YOU TWO ARE GOING OUT?! OH, WOW, I HAD NO IDEA.
or make me lose heart,
♪ Even if I cry out that I'm lonely,
♪ things won't go back to how they were
PLEASE, DON'T.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
or make me run away,
♪ The things I want are always
♪ in the faraway sky
AOKI-CHAN!
or make me dash and run away
MY LIFE IS 26 YEARS OF REPETITION OF THESE EVENTS.

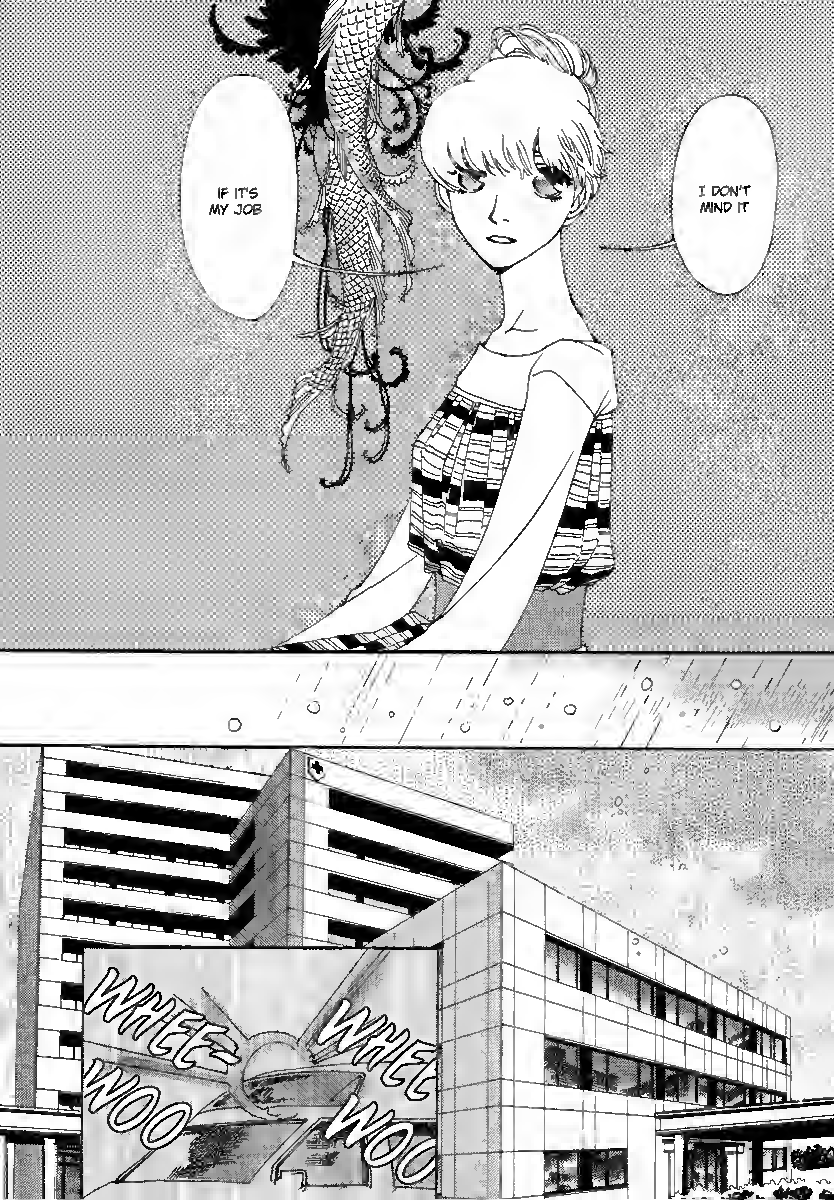
But
YOU'RE ONE PESKY WOMAN.
And then I'd get a lecture...
What's so bad about being single?
YOU HAVE TO "FIND" YOUR BOYFRIEND, YOU CAN'T JUST WAIT FOR HIM TO SHOW UP!
OKAY...
YOU DON'T CARE, DO YOU?!
THAT'S NOT WELL,
THERE IS ONE EXPLANATION I CAN GIVE FOR THAT.
I DON'T LIKE BEING TOUCHED BY OTHER PEOPLE.
I---

PLAYING HOOKY?
mumble
COMPUTER-BOY IS GOING THROUGH PUCHI-FURI
Computer-"boy"?
PUCHI-FURI?
WHEN YOUR PC CONSTANTLY FREEZES
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU RESTART, IT'LL STILL FREEZE SUDDENLY.
SO YOUR COMPUTER BASICALLY GETS INTO A "HABIT OF FREEZING"

DOESN'T THAT SOUND LIKE YOU?
YOU'RE ALWAYS COMING TO A STOP
PUCHI-FURI
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AOKI-SEMPAI?
CAN'T READ THE ATMOSPHERE
OH, YEAH, I'M WORKING ON A HOMEPAGE AND MENU TO PREPARE FOR THE STORE OPENING
SHOULDN'T YOU USE A BLOGGING FORMAT?
It's easier
IT'S A PRIVATE SHOP THAT WILL ONLY BE WORKED IN AT NIGHT, AND I WANT TO HAVE MORE REPEATERS.
SO THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO WORK HARD ON APPEARANCES AND MY HOMEPAGE FROM THE START.

YOU'VE GOT A SOURCE WRONG.
HUH? WHERE, WHERE?
Take a look at it from here!
mumble
I NEED TO MAKE AN ANNOUCEMENT FOR THE PEOPLE I'VE WORKED ON DURING MY BUSINESS TRIPS TOO...
mumble mumble
HEY,
I WORK AT THE HOSPITAL IN THE AFTERNOON, SO I WANT TO TAKE APPOINTMENTS BY WEB.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FILL THAT INTO A PROGRAM.
.....

HARU-SAN, YOUR PC IS RESTORED
A WOMAN.
A WOMAN.
FORCED TO FIX THE COMPUTER
TCH! GUESS I'LL GET TO WORK
.....
SAY,
IF YOU DON'T LIKE STRANGERS TOUCHING YOU,
THEN WHY ARE YOU DOING MANICURES?


IF IT'S MY JOB
I DON'T MIND IT
WHEE~ WOO
WHEE WOO

NO.1 SURGICAL DEPT.
MIMURA!
MIMURA YUYA-SAMA!
chatter
chatter
chatter
Outpatients lose their composure on rainy days
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING PLEASE TAKE THESE AND HEAD TO THE X-RAY ROOM.
YOU CAN GET THERE BY
Some people take it out on personnel while they're being treated
For a bad fall or other similar accidents,
or make it hard for us by either not showing up for their appointments, or coming at the wrong time.
EXCUSE ME BUT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AN HOUR ALREADY.

SURE, CAN I HAVE YOUR NAME, PLEASE?
IT'S HAI-BARA.
HAIBARA-SAMA... YOU'RE SECOND IN LINE, SO YOU'LL ONLY HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE BIT LONGER
LOOK, I DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT THIS LONG LAST WEEK!
MY APOLO-GIES.
EXCUSE ME, BUT ABOUT THIS
YES!
OH, YOU'LL NEED TO HAVE YOUR BLOOD DRAWN NEXT. YOU CAN GET THERE BY...
SO THERE'S REALLY NO POINT IN MAKING AN APPOINTMENT IS THERE?
MY APOLOGIES...
I ONLY CAME BECAUSE I DID
I'LL FEEL EVEN WORSE WAITING FOR YOU PEOPLE!
OKAY
EXCUSE ME... BUT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR QUITE A LONG TIME TOO
OKAY! I'LL TRY TO FIND OUT THE PROBLEM
WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO GO TO ASK ABOUT THESE THINGS?!
HAIBARA-SAN!
WE'VE ALREADY INFORMED THE DOCTOR, SO YOU'LL BE SEEING HIM SOON.

WOULD BE NICE IF YOU COULD GET YOUR X-RAYS TAKEN AHEAD OF TIME
A-AHH... I SEE...
HAIBARA-SAMA, PLEASE COME TO EXAMINATION ROOM 2.
DOCTOR, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME.
HAVING ANOTHER PERSON COME OUT ALWAYS DOES THE TRICK ♪
THANKS.
Patients don't complain to the doctor
HAHAHA, SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE DOING WELL, SENSEI

We neither have the magic nor authority to erase problems...
It's a part of our job but...
Dealing with complaints is a part of our job...
THEY DIDN'T WRITE MY NEXT APPOINTMENT DATE ON THE SALES SLIP!
HEY!
The doctor forgot to input it
YOU CAN ENTER IT OVER HERE
WHERE'S THAT OTHER NURSE?
My Father passed away on a rainy day like this...
MY APOLOGIES
WHEE WOO
WHEE-WOO
HAHAHAHA, STOP THAT, SENSEI!

OH, SORRY
MY HANDS MOVE ON THEIR OWN
ANYWAY, HOW ABOUT GOING OUT FOR DRINKS NEXT TIME?
THAT'S THE 100TH TIME YOU'VE SAID THAT
OH, WELL, MY MOUTH MOVES ON ITS OWN
TURN
HEY, MORE IMPORTANTLY

WHAT DOES AN ER DOCTOR WANT WITH OUR SURGICAL DEPARTMENT?
ALMOST FORGOT
AHH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND YAGAI-SENSEI?
HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY OUTPATIENTS TODAY.
HMM, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR OUR CONFERENCE, SO I THOUGHT HE'D BE KILLING TIME SOMEWHERE
COULDN'T GET THROUGH TO HIS PHS
I---
KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO CALL HIM FOR YOU?
I'M FINISHED WITH THE OUTPA-TIENTS.

SWOOSH
OHHH, THEN I'M COUNTING ON.
...IS SHE AOKI-SAN?
YES. ONE OF OUR CLERKS
HMM
YEP. ♡ I WAS THINKING ABOUT HAVING LUNCH WITH HIM TODAY.
YOU'RE PRETTY FRIENDLY WITH YAGAI-SENSEI.
SPEAKING OF HIM,
HE'S BEEN AT THIS HOSPITAL FOR A LONG TIME, RIGHT?
PRETTY RARE, CONSIDERING WE'RE NOT A COLLEGE HOSPITAL.
HE HAS SO MUCH TALENT.

HE JUST NEVER TALKS ABOUT HIMSELF.
THAT'S NOT WHY.
WHY? DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
WAREHOUSE B
So he is here...
...AHH,
I GUESS IT'S NOT STRANGE FOR THE YOUNGER NURSES NOT TO KNOW ABOUT IT.

*T/N INTUBATION IS A GENERAL TERM REFERRING TO THE PLACEMENT OF A TUBE INTO A PATIENT'S BODY

*T/N CROSS MATCH IS A LABORATORY TEST DONE TO CONFIRM THAT BLOOD FROM A DONOR AND BLOOD FROM THE RECIPIENT ARE COMPATIBLE

DON'T!
YAGAI-SENSEI?

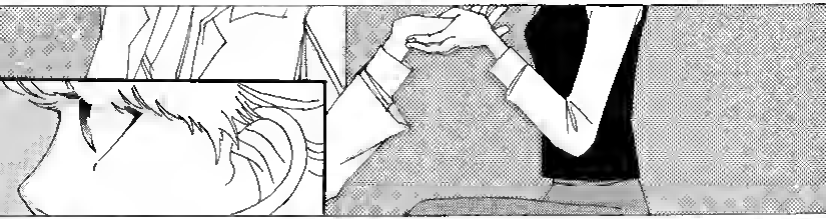
tremble
tremble
tremble
?
?
?
?
SSHH..

THAT HURTS.
SENSEI
?
?
SORRY...
...OH

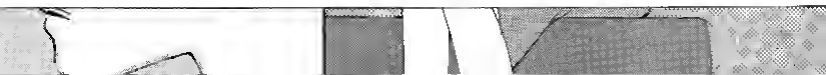
IT WAS A DREAM?
AHHHHH,
HAHAHA-HAHA.
HFF---
AKASAKA-SENSEI WAS LOOKING FOR YOU
AHH...
HAHA-HAHA!
LET HIM WORRY. HE'S JUST CONCERNED BECAUSE IT'S RAINING
ANYWAY, BUH-BYE
DID YOU TRY TO COMMIT SUICIDE?

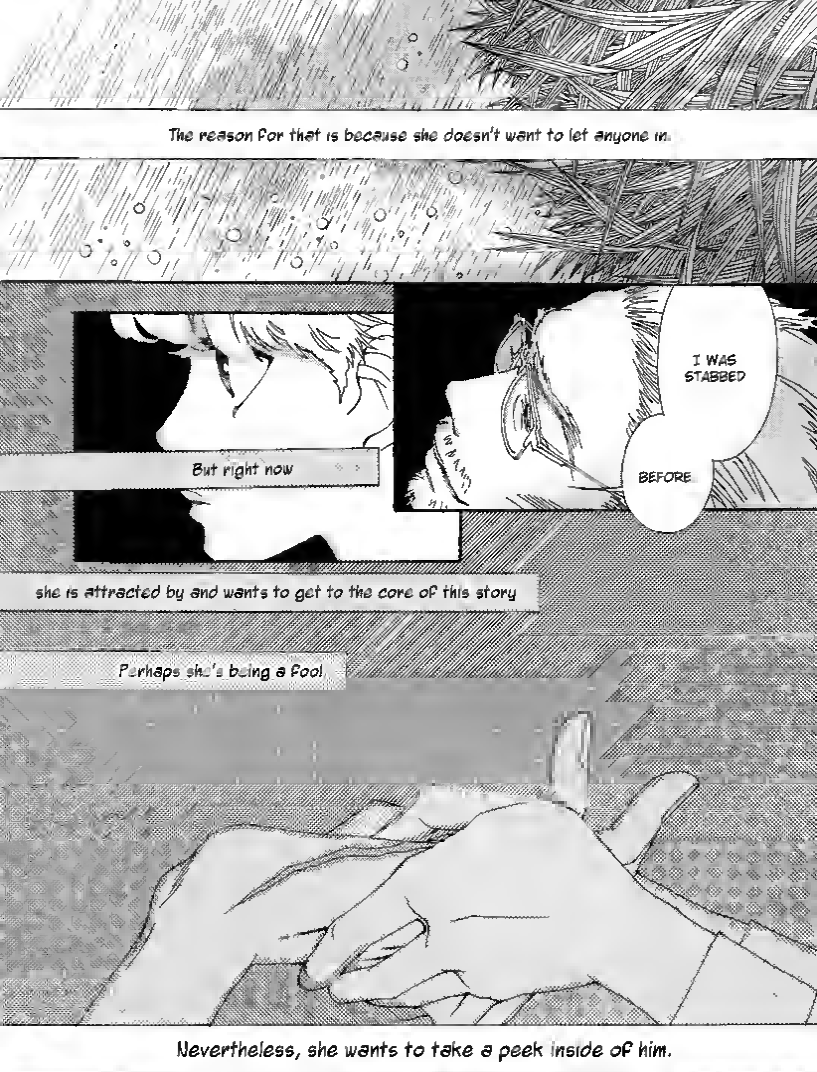
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME
A SURGEON WOULDN'T MAKE SUCH A FILTHY GASH ON HIMSELF
WHAT STRANGE PRIDE

A woman with the "habit of freezing"



and who hates being touched




The reason for that is because she doesn't want to let anyone in.
I WAS STABBED
BEFORE
But right now
she is attracted by and wants to get to the core of this story
Perhaps she's being a fool
Nevertheless, she wants to take a peek inside of him.

Number
3

I'M SORRY FOR TURNING UP SO SUDDENLY...
NO, I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING FOR NOT HAVING MY SHOP ORGANIZED
I'M TOO LAID-BACK...
SOUNDS JUST LIKE YOU IT'S A GOOD THING, THOUGH. THAT MAKES IT EASIER FOR CUSTOMERS TO COME
REALLY?
BUT WHAT A GOOD IDEA, TO OPERATE A NAIL SALON BY NIGHT! I CAN SWING BY ON MY WAY HOME FROM WORK
.....
KAORU?
OH, I'M SORRY

Must hurry and get started, or else...
Must hurry.
JUST WHEN I WAS CONSIDERING IT
AND WENT TO TAKE A LOOK,
YEAH
I WAS THINKING ABOUT GETTING ANOTHER JOB ANYWAY
ALL THE STORES
WERE CLOSED AT NIGHT
THERE WAS JUST A LONG LINE OF UNUSED SHOPS
"WHAT A WASTE,"
I THOUGHT TO MYSELF

Places left to ride...
WELL, I GUESS IT'S ONLY PRACTICAL TO CONSIDER THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF OWNING A BUSINESS THAT STAYS OPEN UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT,
BUT IT CAN BE MANAGEABLE IF IT'S PRIVATE
Huh ?
AT THE BEGINNING I WAS REALLY DEPRESSED TO FIND OUT HOW EXPENSIVE DEPOSITS FOR STORES ARE...
AHH I FELL ASLEEP AGAIN
What if I go on like this forever...?
ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU'D CALL TAKING UP BUSINESS ON A WHIM?
BUT, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING.

fidget fidget
WHY ARE YOU EAVESDROPPING ON THE FIRST FLOOR?
EWW, AND FROM THE STAIRS TOO!
NO, I'M NOT!
IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
.....
YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?

GLARE
DID WHAT?
THE OTHER DAY WHEN YOU FIXED THAT VIRUS,
YOU PURPOSELY DID IT IN FRONT OF HER BECAUSE YOU KNEW YOU HAD A GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCESS.
CONCERNED
Ahhh, Ahhh!
STUPID...
Chatter, chatter, chatter...
Shuro-san is angry at me again.
Chatter, chatter, chatter.
STOP DICTATING STAGE DIRECTIONS!
Finds joy in being tsukkomi'ed.*
WOO-HOO!

*T/N THE TSUKKOMI/STRAIGHT MAN IS GENERALLY THE SMARTER AND MORE REASONABLE OF THE UNIT AND WILL CRITICIZE VERBALLY AND PHYSICALLY ABUSE AND GENERALLY RAIL AT THE BOKE/FUNNY MAN FOR THEIR MISTAKES AND EXAGGERATIONS

I STILL HAVEN'T THOUGHT UP A NAME FOR THE SHOP.
THAT'S TRUE.
HONESTLY, EVERYTHING WAS DECIDED ON SO SUDDENLY THAT I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO LET MY CUSTOMERS KNOW YET.
Huh?
This is taking a lot of time.
BUT YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE ABLE TO RENT FROM A FRIEND'S OFFICE BUILDING.
YOU'LL BE EARNING YOUR KEEP SOON ENOUGH.
HAHA-HAHA.
OKAY, ALL DONE.

THANKS. HOW MUCH IS IT?
.....
7
HMM...
IT'S OKAY FOR TODAY.
HUH? I CAN'T DO THAT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. BESIDES, I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR NOT HAVING THE SHOP ORGANIZED
WELL, I DID JUST DROP BY OUT OF THE BLUE.
I DIDN'T EVEN BRING OUT TEA
EHH? BUT I'D STILL LIKE TO GIVE YOU YOUR DUE
NO, IT'S OKAY. I TOOK A LOT OF YOUR TIME, ANYWAY.

Webern and J.S. Bach's 6 voci's Ricercata
Orchestral arrange-ment edition.
Hff

Sheesh... this won't do.

I don't know why, but I felt super nervous

This is so different from doing it on one of my business trips.

Being my own spokesperson also means that failure is not an option.

It took up so much time even though I was sure I'd be quick

Oh, and working on opposite-facing sofas was more difficult than I thought, so I'll use chairs next time

She said it's hard to notice the entrance, so I'll put up a sign

But then you can clearly see the coffee maker and computer display from the entrance, so I'll have to find something to block it from view

Guess I'll try making a menu before the last train comes
There's so much that I'm lacking
I must hurry; I must!
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON PREPARING TO OPEN SHOP?
I know it in my head.

PSST PSST
OH, BOY.
SHE SURE TOLD HER.
SHE DOESN'T GIVE WAY, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO THAT TYPE OF WOMAN.
EXCUSE ME, BUT IT'S GETTING ON MY NERVES TO SEE YOU FOOL AROUND HERE
WE RENTED THIS PLACE OUT FOR YOU TO DO A BUSINESS
IF YOU NEED TO ACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH A FRIEND, THEN GO TO STAR-BUCKS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING IT OFF. DIDN'T YOU TELL US EARLIER YOU WERE GETTING READY?
YOU SEEM TO GET A KICK OUT OF THE WAIT, TOO!

BUT THE BILLS WON'T BE WAITING WITH YOU. THE RENT, ELECTRICITY, GAS, WATER, AND TAXES AREN'T FREE, HON!
IT COSTS MONEY JUST TO BE ALIVE,
SO START RAKING IT IN.
YOU SAID, "I'LL QUIT IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT."
DIDN'T YOU?! AND YOU TOOK ON THIS DEBT SAYING, "IT'S BETTER THAN NOT DOING ANY-THING AT ALL," DIDN'T YOU?
OUR CHESTS ARE ACHING, JUST ACHING!
SHE'S GOING TOO FAR.
SHIRO-SAN, PLEASE STOP HER
BUT WHAT SHE'S SAYING IS TRUE
EH?!

I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T STAND ANYONE GOOFING OFF IN MY WORKSPACE.
DO YOU REALLY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SEE THINGS THROUGH? ARE YOU ABLE TO KEEP UP?
AREN'T YOU BEING JUST A LITTLE NAIVE?

!
HEY!
NO,
I'M SO SORRY...
NO, NO.
YOU'RE MAKING ME LOOK LIKE A BULLY!
STOP CRYING!
SOMEONE ELSE SAID THE SAME THING...
YOU'RE SO NAIVE.

THUD
On that day when I peered inside,
I fell down a hole,
so deep that I'm unable to climb back out.
WHEE-
WHOO

Thank you Okazaki Mari &
Stiletto Heels Team

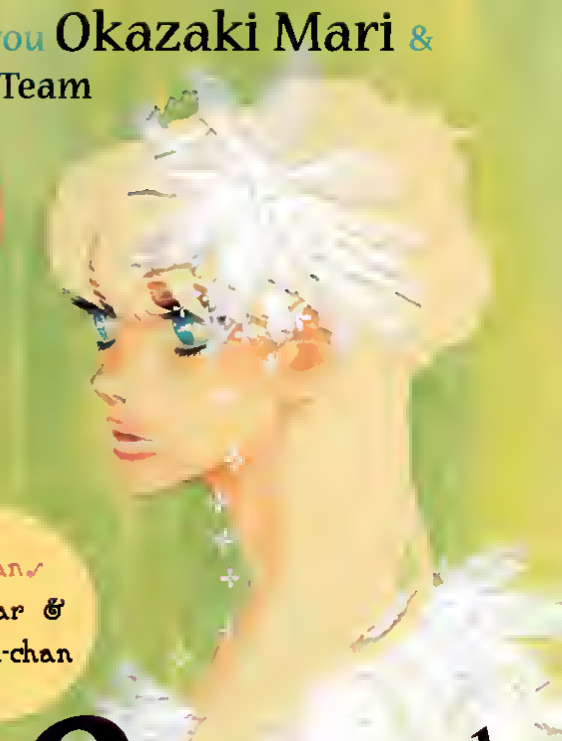
Translation
Hatsumimi

Proofread
Miwachan

Clean
bilanar &
Panda-chan

Typeset
bilanar

& a special
shout out to Stilletto
for Quality-Check.



& Volume 1, Chapter 3

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